

Donald A. Mituzas

NUMISMATIST

P.O. Box 867

Croton Falls, N.Y. 10519

914-278-6640

February 4, 1993

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

I just thought I would update you on a recent purchase.

Enclosed, please find photos of a 1784 Imitation British 1/2d., V.14-84A. Although this piece isn't a high grade, it is the heaviest of the 6 I now own, being 110.3 grains.

As I had mentioned in the past I was thinking of donating one of them to the ANS for their collection, but have since found out that they have two in superior condition.

I was wondering if you might know of a list of the coins that were inventoried of the Stepney hoard. I have seen bits and pieces of information regarding the contents of this hoard, but only a rumor of an inventory done by Stack's in the early 1950's. Sometime in the future I would like to publish some information on the circulation of early copper in this country based on coins that have been unearthed. A list of the coins in the Stepney hoard would be invaluable to this effort. A list or any information you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,



Donald A. Mituzas



1784 Imit. 1/2d.
V.14-84A
110.3 gr.



1784 Imit. 1/2d.
V.14-84A
110.3 gr.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Jim Spilman
Colonial Newsletter Foundation
P.O. Box 4411
Huntsville, AL 35815-4411

August 4, 1993

AE-1

The answer of editor Michael J. Hodder to the question about the contents of the Stepney or Fairfield Hoard indicated that there were no Machins pieces in the group. (CNL July 1993, p. 1372) That comment was probably caused by my own ambiguity about 35 years ago. I had stated that there were 72 counterfeit British and Irish halfpence in the Hoard. This was before Machins pieces were listed. Hodder reasonably interpreted this as meaning counterfeit British and Irish made halfpence whereas I meant counterfeit British and Irish style halfpence.

The 72 counterfeit British and Irish style halfpence in the hoard were sent to me on approval by Walter Breen when he was working for Stack's. I selected 10 or 12 pieces at \$5 to \$10 each and returned the balance. These prices seemed enormous to me at the time, but among the pieces I bought were the 1776 Machins featured in "The Vermont Numismatic Enigma" (Vlack 9-76B); a 1778 Machins uncirculated red brown (11-78A); a 1787 uncirculated red brown (19-87C); a 1787 uncirculated some red (17-87A); a 1788 uncirculated red brown (23-88A); and perhaps a 1787 uncirculated full red (20-87C). I do not remember the date of purchase but could go mining in my files to try to find out if that becomes of interest. It had to be before my 1958 "Enigma" article and even could have been before Breen's 1952 Hoard article.

Ned Barnsley in his 1962 comment on the pieces in the Hoard was correct about Machins pieces being present. Although he used the word "Bungtowns" instead of "evasions" that was then customary. I tried to define the meaning of the word "Bungtown" in 1976.

This all shows how continual research and writing can add to accuracy.



Eric P. Newman

Donald A. Mituzas

NUMISMATIST

P.O. Box 867

Croton Falls, N.Y. 10519

914-278-6640

August 16, 1993

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

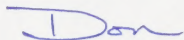
It was a pleasure listening to you at the ANA convention. I was glad I had a chance to chat with you briefly following your talk.

As per your request, I have enclosed information on the Counterfeit British Halfpence that you requested. You may recall that I had five of the 1784 North Swansea pieces, attributed as Vlack 14-84A.

I have enclosed photos of the obverse and reverse of each of the specimens that I own. Each photograph shows the weight on the front for easy matching of obverse and reverse. On the back of each photo I have shown the die alignment. I hope these photos are useful to you as my photography skills leave much to be desired.

I also have another coin that may be of interest to you. It is a 1747 Machins V.1-47A, George II obverse. The weight on this piece is an astounding 174.4 grains. This coin, unlike two others I own, is struck perfect medal turn. There is a slight crack in the planchet a 12 o'clock on the obverse that could be the result of excessive striking pressure on this very heavy piece. I don't have any photos of this coin, but if you would like, let me know and I'll take a couple for you.

Yours truly,



Donald A. Mituzas



Black 14-84A
91.0 Grains
Mituzas Collection

Die Alignment





Black 14-84A
91.0 Grains
Mituzas Collection

Die Alignment





Vlack 14-84A
98.5 Grains
Mituzas Collection

Die Alignment





Vlack 14-84A
98.5 Grains
Mituzas Collection

Die Alignment





Vlack 14-84A
95.65 Grains
Mituzas Collection

Die Alignment





Black 14-84A
95.65 Grains
Mituzas Collection

Die Alignment





Wick 14.84A

96.3 Grams

Mituzas Collection

Die Alignment





Vlack 14 84A
96.3 Grains
Mituzas Collection

Die Alignment





Black 14-84A

95.0 Grains

Mituzas Collection

Die Alignment





Black 14-84A
95.0 Grains
Mituzas Collection

Die Alignment



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Donald A. Mituzas
P.O. Box 867
Croton Falls, NY 10519

February 11, 1994

Dear Donald:

Thanks for the information on the new 1784 counterfeit.

If you wish to improve our collection in that regard we are a not-for-profit foundation and you can get a tax deduction for full value on any coin you have held for a year or more. Our best piece is not very strong. If you preferred to give us a nice one and take ours in exchange then you would be giving the excess value of your better one. I didn't want to deprive you of this opportunity now that ANS doesn't need one.

I do not believe there is a list of the Stepney coins. Walter never had one and he worked for Stack's. He wrote up the Stepney hoard. When I bought some Machins from Stack's Walter told me the nice Vermonts and Connecticut had been removed when he saw the group. Stack's may not have known what was in there in the beginning and were asked several times where the coins really came from. Stacks could have added other Connecticut to the group as nobody got very excited about what was left of a picked hoard. I think Stacks sold many of them to a Connecticut collector whose name evades me now.

I hope I have been slightly helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric", written in dark ink.

Eric P. Newman



BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

Your friends in the rare coin business

July 29, 1996

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your letter of the 17th with regard to the Stepney hoard. I am not sure that anyone knows much about the Stepney hoard, and Mike Hodder mentioned to me that some had questioned certain aspects of it. However, this was before his time and apparently Norman Stack and the two older Stacks were the ones who handled it, and they are no longer living.

If in fact it was a collection, not a hoard, possibly some of the coins would have been plated in an earlier catalogue (just grasping for clues here). However, in absence of anything definite, I think it is best to leave the record as it is. There are quite a few hoards that have stories, sometimes varying widely. Even Walter Breen on occasion wrote of certain hoards two different ways on two different occasions—probably forgetting what he had said the first time.

Last week I sent to you a beginning printout of some of the hoard stories. If you have any others you would like to add I would be delighted to receive them. "Payment" would consist of a copy of the book plus, of course, appropriate credit.

This is a very enjoyable project, and I having a really good time doing it!

Sincerely,

Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm

To: Q. David Bowers
From: Eric P. Newman
Date: August 7, 1996
RE: Coin Hoard Book

Fax 603-569-5319

Chapter 72 of Hoards is at hand and I believe I can add somewhat to it. Walter did an important piece of work in his 1952 write up of it.

In my opinion (not because I own it) the key piece in the Stepney finding is the 1776 Machins (Vlack 76 B-9) which I wrote up in 1958 for the ANS Centennial volume in "A Recently Discovered Coin Solves a Vermont Numismatic Enigma". I bought this coin from Stack's, Walter handling the matter for them. There were about 10 to 12 Machins I bought from the group sent me and only one offered me was in mint state. This was in May 1951 according to Kleeberg in CNL for January 1996, page 1608. Walter knew I was working on the matter.

While Walter may not have known the full significance of the 1776 coin he sold me he did note in his 1952 article that the head punch matched some Connecticut and Vermont pieces, as stated in your revision of his article.

In your revision of his article I believe you should correct some of his erroneous guesswork. He makes it appear that Bungtown was an English name for evasive legend halfpence. When I wrote this up in 1976 to show it was strictly an American word for counterfeit halfpence he helped and was later delighted with the Shakespearean association. When I wrote more in 1991 on Shakespeare's bunghole usage Walter was responsible for the filthy Rabelais tie in.

Walter's comment about "six to eight for a penny" in your revision is an error or mix up. There were six to eight shillings to a Spanish dollar in money of account, but before rejection of halfpence there were 14 to 18 coppers to a shilling and after rejection never more than 60.

the combined pressures to meet a deadline before leaving on a trip planned for a grand-daughter plus problems with our laser printer and similar frustrations. We were able to correct a few of these such as the numbering of pages 1530A and 1530B, but ye Editor has no explanation whatsoever as to how we managed to get page 2 positioned between pages 1552 and 1554! The most frustrating of these pagination problems was that in the process of renumbering pages we failed to renumber references so that a notation that endnotes are to be found on a given page actually appear a page earlier or later. Yuch! Such are the joys of desktop publishing.

□ □ □

Now - let us

ASK the EDITORS

Here are a number of comments on previous "Ask the Editors" subjects. These are *all* from John Kleeberg of ANS/NY.

Regarding AE-1 "The Stepney Hoard" (see pages 1383 and 1401):

One other coin, other than those listed so far in the CNL, is known to have been in the Stepney Hoard; this is the Vermont 1788 R-16, Bressett 15-S. It was lot 1282 of the Norweb sale; the pedigree given was Stepney Hoard-Walter Breen-Richard Picker 1959-Emery May Norweb. I have noticed no other coins in that auction as being in the Stepney Hoard, but I could have slipped up on a few.

The probable date for Eric P. Newman acquiring the counterfeits from the Stepney hoard would be May 1951. Breen didn't work at Stack's that long - he gives May 1951 as the date in his autobiography published in *Penny Wise*, 1977.

By the way, I personally think the Stepney hoard is legitimate. I don't think the pristine surfaces of the specimens is a valid argument against them. They may have been cleaned, but most of our best coins come from buried hoards. Some coins react with the soil; some

don't. I am not a trained chemist, but it is possible that the chemicals attacked the iron kettle first, and so the coins were spared. This is just a matter of opinion, however.

□ □ □

On AE-7 "Die Orientation of London Elephant Tokens" (see pages 1402 & 1403):

The ANS has five authentic elephant tokens in its collection (two London, three Carolinas). All are medal turn. The ANS also has thirteen fakes in its collection. Nearly all the fakes are medal turn as well, unfortunately, although one is off a bit, at one o'clock. Medal turn is common in the seventeenth century. Many, maybe most seventeenth century tradesmen's tokens are medal turn - that was one of the arguments I used for a seventeenth century date. Massachusetts silver switches from coin turn to medal turn early in the Oak Tree series. During the eighteenth century coin turn prevails - so you should record the die axis if you have a coin which is significantly off from six o'clock.

□ □ □

On AE-11 "Farthings in America" (see pages 1409 & 1470):

The question of the circulation of farthings in the American colonies is an interesting one. I believe they circulated to some, albeit limited, extent. Mr. Oppenheim has found most of the relevant references on the matter, and is right to focus on the coppers from the Mermaid, which was probably one of the largest injections of farthings ever. A hoard with over fifty farthings dated 1702-1740, with a few shillings, was found at Elmsford, near White Plains, New York, in 1895 (see the *Numismatist*, 1895, vol. 8, p. 242). During the excavations which turned up the halfpennies in the Philadelphia Highway hoard, two farthings were found: one 169x, William III tin, the other a 1774 George III. (See Newman and Gaspar in the *Numismatist*, 1978, vol. 91, pp. 453-467). Two other

isolated finds of farthings: a 1718 farthing found in the wreck of the sloop Boscawen (see George Bass, ed. *Ships and Shipwrecks of the Americas*, (London, 1988, p. 146) and a 1720 farthing found around Fort St. Joseph, Michigan; see "Thrilled by Georgian Coppers? It depends on where you find them! An Etching of Michigan's Colonial Past" in *The Searcher* (Grayscott, Hindhead, Surrey, England, April 1991) vol. 6 No. 8, pp. 34-35.

Mr. Oppenheim is probably right about the prevalence of George I and George II farthings, and the scarcity of George III; the 1774 George III farthing is the only documentation of a George III farthing found in North America that I have come across so far. There are fashions in coppers just as in everything else, and the seventeenth century liked their coppers to be farthing size or smaller, the later eighteenth and early nineteenth century liked larger, halfpenny size coppers, and around about the middle of the nineteenth century the fashion swung back to small size coppers again. (This is one of the reasons I decided that the New Yorke in America token had to be of seventeenth century rather than eighteenth century manufacture.) The authorities clearly thought that farthings served some purpose, though, because the two state mints set up on United States soil in the eighteenth century, the Boston mint and the Philadelphia mint, both coined farthings - - although they called them half cents. Bob Julian at one point made the observation to me that half cents were fairly essential, so long as the Spanish colonial silver continued to circulate; people want to get their 2 1/2 cents back when they tender a real for a dime purchase. He believes that occasional minting of half cents or half dimes or the like by the Philadelphia mint is related to the fluctuating supplies of Spanish colonial silver. This may apply to farthings as well.

I have been told of one counterfeit farthing (albeit George II) which I believe to be of American manufacture, and that is a cast counterfeit 1749 farthing, which Philip Mossman owns. There were so many genuine 1749 farthing and halfpence in circula-

tion in the thirteen colonies and the early United States that most cast counterfeits of that date are probably of American manufacture.

□ □ □

And now a new "Ask the Editors" question from John Kleeberg:

AE-15 The Mendes Cohen Hoard of Virginia Halfpence

Now, since the interesting thing about CNL is the questions, and it is unfair to answer questions without providing new ones to puzzle over:

I would like to know more about the Mendes Cohen hoard of Virginia halfpence. Were all the die varieties now known to us represented in it, or just certain die varieties? On looking through the ANS collection of Virginia halfpence, I note the following varieties with the characteristic brilliant red uncirculated look of specimens from the hoard: Newman varieties 4-G (two examples), 6-X, 20-N, 20-X, 22-S, 23-Q, 24-K, 25-M (three examples), 27-J, 26-Y and 27-J. Two specimens are worn enough that they certainly do not come from that hoard: 8-H and 20-N (note that the ANS thus has 20-N in both uncirculated condition ex Cohen and in well circulated condition). There are also two coins which *possibly* come from the Cohen hoard: 3-F and 7-D. These coins are in uncirculated condition, but they do not have the mint-red look of Cohen coins. There are two specimens depicted in the plates in Newman's book which are worn enough that they cannot come from the Cohen hoard, namely obverses 8 and 9. I also note that Breen, in his pioneering January 1952 article on American coin hoards, says (p. 17) "Rumor has it that the find was made in one of the government buildings in Annapolis." I presume this rumor is a red herring, and that Newman's identification of the find spot as Richmond, and the date of the acquisition of the hoard to between 1780-1803 by Israel Cohen (as

Eric P. Newman

The Stepney Depot Hoard

(1950)

<<<Photo of 1787 Vermont BRITANNIA copper>>>

A detailed report of this find was given by Walter H. Breen in 1952 (here edited), based upon his examination of it in 1951.¹⁵⁰

Some excavations during 1950 on a pre-Revolutionary War estate in Stepney [Depot], Fairfield County, Connecticut, brought to light an old iron kettle apparently filled with earth. The kettle was of eighteenth century vintage, was undamaged and probably had lain undisturbed since its burial next to one of the posts in the old barn (built 1760) whence it was unearthed. It proved to contain some 200 coins, encrusted, which the owners subsequently sold to Stack's in New York. The encrustations were cleaned off without damage to the coins, and some pieces were sold (reportedly including eight Uncirculated Vermont cents of the portrait types, and 20-odd Connecticut cents in the same condition). I later had the opportunity to study the remainder of the hoard.

What I saw included 181 coins, as follows:

One was a Nova Eborac; three were Vermont cents (two having the BRITANNIA reverse, the third being Ryder 27); 72 were counterfeit halfpence, all with correct legends (*i.e.*, no bungtowns); the remainder were Connecticut cents 1785-1788, mostly in Mint State or almost as fine, though many were poorly struck.

The Connecticut cents were just as noteworthy for variety as for condition. Fully 74 different die varieties, including some extreme rarities, were represented. Among these I might mention 1786 Miller 4.2-G (unlisted muling), 5.2-H.1, 5.2-L, 5.8-F, 5.11-R, 5.14-S, 33.13-Z.1, and 33.40-Z.2—all Rarity 5 or 6; all represented by one to three specimens.

Probably of equal importance are the quantity and character of the counterfeit halfpence. Sixteen of the 72 were dated 1778-1787, *all* being in Mint State, all on planchets of the same fabric, all having identical letter and figure punches and die workmanship. Three of the 1787s have the identical die for reverse that was later used with Vermont obverse to make Ryder-13, the BRITANNIA variety; this die is attributed to James F. Atlee and the coins to Machin's Mill near Newburgh, New York. One of the three 1787 counterfeits has both obverse and reverse the same as that illustrated by Howard Kurth as "Machin's Halfpenny" in his introduction to Richardson on Vermont cents (May 1947 *Numismatist*). These Machin-made halfpence will be further discussed below.

¹⁵⁰ Walter H. Breen, "Survey of American Coin Hoards," *The Numismatist*, January 1952.

Some of the conclusions that can be drawn from this hoard follow, the complete catalogue of the contents being omitted for lack of space:

1. The hoard was buried in 1788, unless most of the Connecticuts of that date were predated. I would suspect it was fairly early in the year, too, inasmuch as the 1788-dated coins are extremely few in proportion to the 1787's, and all of the 1788's are choice Mint State. There are only four 1788 Connecticuts, but 75 1787s, thirteen 1786s and eight 1785s. Purely negative evidence seems to confirm this; there are no late Machin issues such as the GEORGIUS III REX / INDE ET LIB pieces, Immune Columbias, or "emergency" issues overstruck on earlier pieces such as Nova Constellatio or half pence.

2. Since coppers passed current then at six to eight for a penny, the whole current value of the hoard at time of burial cannot be exceeded two Spanish dollars (even allowing the maximum number of specimens to have been sold from the hoard before I saw it), and probably did not even equal one. The answer to the natural question, "To whom would this junk have seemed treasure worth burying?" immediately suggests itself: this was a small boy's hoard, made up of his acquisitions of a few coppers at a time, gathered over a period of a couple of years (hence the great diversity of varieties). This hypothesis incidentally provides one of two possible explanations for the great number of counterfeit halfpence: either it was a child's ignorance of base coin, or else false halfpence really circulated in those times as if genuine—or both.

3. In any event, this hoard provides an extraordinary illumination of the kinds of currency of low value that passed in Connecticut and the surrounding area in that period. Compare the account in S.S. Crosby's *Early Coins of America* (pp. 291-292) which applied to New York, but is largely confirmed by this hoard buried only a few miles east of the New York-Connecticut border. There is one anomaly for which no explanation seems satisfactory, however: the complete absence of Massachusetts, Fugio or New Jersey coppers.

4. The base halfpence mentioned above, dated 1778 and attributed by implication to Atlee and Machin, were certainly *predated*, judging both by condition and by the fact that stylistically they are connected with 1788 Connecticuts and halfpence—not to mention the identity of letters and figure punches. This confirms a conjecture of C. Wyllys Betts (*Counterfeit Half Pence*, p. 16) that they were so made. I suspect that the "1778" was an error for 1787.

5. The "base coins in similitude of British half-pence" repeatedly mentioned by Crosby (pp. 291, 172-174) were these counterfeits, both Birmingham-made (c. 1736-1776, as in this hoard) and Newburgh-made (1778-1787-1788). They were mostly certainly NOT the so-called "Pennsylvania coppers" or bungtowns. Strictly speaking, a *bungtown* is a bogus British copper of halfpenny or farthing size, with legends (such as GLORIOVS IER VIS, CORNWALLIS IND., GEORGE RULES, GREGORIVS III. PON., etc.) designed to evade drastic British anti-counterfeiting acts—and, at worst, to deceive the illiterate. These are better termed "evasions" and left completely out of the American colonial series, as most of the legends have been shown to refer to historical events of the period 1789-1805, making it absurd to say that they circulated in Pennsylvania in 1781-1788. (See J.D.A. Thompson's article "Evasions," No. 373, *Seaby's Bulletin*, June 1949, for evidence.) There is plenty of evidence both inside and outside of the Fairfield County hoard that counterfeit British halfpence with correct legends circulated in the colonies. There is, however, NO evidence (other than Dr. Maris's conjecture quoted by Crosby, pp. 172-173) that these *evasions* ever did; and there is some evidence, namely the present

hoard, that they did not circulate in quantity, if at all—for there is not a single specimen in evidence. I suggest therefore that the coins suppressed in Pennsylvania were simply British counterfeits of the kind which form a good part of the present hoard, and that the Maris conclusions otherwise were based on too little evidence.

Another conclusion (perhaps weakened by my lack of metallurgical experience) that might be drawn from this hoard is that the same source apparently supplied copper for both the Machin halfpence and many of the Connecticut coppers of 1787-1788, as the fabric and finish are identical. If the conclusion that these latter were made in Machin's Mill be correct, then the statement on Crosby's p. 202 (concerning the insignificantly small output of the Newburgh manufactory of hardware before 1789) will need revision—especially as the false halfpence are fairly common. There was also, apparently, a good bit of shipping of dies from one mint to another.

I may also briefly mention here that there were several hubs or head-punches used concurrently among obverse dies of Connecticut, Vermonts and halfpence. One was the Mailed Bust seen on Connecticut 1785 obverses 7 and 8, 1786 types 4 and 5.1, 5.3, 5.6, and Vermont obverses of Ryder 10, 11, and 15. Another was the Draped Bust used for Connecticut obverses of 1787, Nos. 16 to 56 and all of the 1788 Draped Busts. Still another was the hub found on Vermont coppers attributed as Ryder 1, 14, 20, 21, etc., and some others, and also on a GEORGIVS III REX obverse listed as Ryder 31. A fourth was that seen on 1787 Connecticut obverses 9 and 15, 1788 obverses 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 13.

Walter Breen went on to accomplish much in numismatics, with the capstone of his career being the publication by Doubleday in 1988 of *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*.

It is believed that many of these state copper coins went into the collection of Edward Hessberg.¹⁵¹

¹⁵¹ Norman Stack related to Michael J. Hodder that a client of Stack's, Edward Hessberg, happened to visit the firm when Norman was examining some of the Connecticut coppers, and said, "I'll take the lot." The coins Breen examined were those owned by Hessberg. (Michael J. Hodder, commentary, July 1, 1996)



Phone: 212/234-3130
Fax: 212/234-3381
E-mail: Info@AmNumSoc.Org

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET
NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

November 11, 1998

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Eric,

Thank you for your letter of November 10th, which arrived here in twenty-four hours.

We had a very good session on Saturday. The papers were all, on the whole, very well done. Even though you were not present in person, you were present very much in spirit, because so many papers started by saying, "When Eric Newman determined this..." or "After Eric Newman's study of this..." It was also very good to see the display of the Bungtown coppers which Mike Ringo borrowed from you for the display. The only problem is that Bungtown coppers are hard to display well - they tend to look like undifferentiated brown spots. But connoisseurs know what is there.

Have you obtained a copy of the Cobwright publication on evasive halfpence from Ringo? He has bought a batch of them. It replaces Atkins. Ringo tells me that there are many typos in Atkins, which is particularly disastrous with evasives... Among other publications, I finally got around to reading Carlotto's work on Vermont coppers. He did a fine job. He did a particular service for us by clearing up the status of the dubious Ryder 5 pieces and the fantastic Ryder 40.

Your data about coppersmiths is interesting. I read the text a little differently, however. I think the point being brought out is that at a time of rising copper prices (because of the French Revolutionary Wars) cents would soon reach the "bullion point," at which they contained more than a cent worth of copper. At that time coppersmiths (honest ones) could buy up cents for a cent, and obtain a cheap source of copper. The United States

eventually had to deal with this by reducing the weight of the cent, which happened by presidential decree at the end 1795. The reduced weight varieties are Sheldon 76b and higher. The problem was that coppersmiths were melting heavy weight cents to patch kettles.

All the best,


John Kleeberg



Phone: 212/234-3130
Fax: 212/234-3381
E-mail: Info@AmNumSoc.Org

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET
NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

December 18, 1998

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Eric,

Ed Sarrafian has been compiling a census of George II counterfeits, so I decided to write up the ANS and Batty counterfeits for him, and this is the result. I thought you might like to have a copy, so it is enclosed.

All the best,

John Kleeberg

Counterfeit George II Halfpence in the ANS collection; and
 Counterfeit George II Halfpence Listed in Batty
 (All counterfeits are cast, unless otherwise indicated)

John M. Kleeberg

Year	ANS (coin numbers)	Batty (Batty number)
Young head type: 1729	1975.117.14 (Montclair 32) 1975.117.13 (Montclair 33)	
1730	1919.167.88 0000.999.41581 (but old head; struck)	2327 (brass)
1731		2341 (struck) 2342 (struck)
1733		2363 (struck) 2364 (struck)
1734	1981.110.32	2380
1735		2389 2393 2395 2396
1736	1949.88.370	2414 (struck) 2415 (struck) 2416 (struck)
1737	1953.1.1 Date very unclear	2429 2432 (struck)
1738		2447
1739		2463 2469 2470 2471 (struck)
Old head type: 1740	1990.74.44	2490
1741 No genuine halfpence of this year		2485 (struck) 2486 (struck)

English

1743	1944.57.15	2507 (struck) 2508 (struck) 2509 (struck)
1747	1919.167.85 (Vlack 1-47A) 1982.84.1 (Vlack 1-47A) (both struck)	2532 (struck; Vlack 1-47A)
1749	1975.117.15 (Montclair 34)	2550
1750		2559 (struck) 2560 2561
1751		2578 2579 2580 2581 (struck) 2582 (struck) 2583 (struck) 2584 2585 (struck) 2586 (struck)
1752	1944.57.14 1975.117.16 (Montclair 28), struck	2605 2606 (struck)
1753		2621 (struck) 2622 2623 2624
1754	1944.57.16 Date very unclear	2632 (struck) 2633
1756 (No genuine halfpence after 1754)		2635 (struck)
1760		2638 (struck)
Illegible date, young bust	1949.65.234 1949.98.371	
Illegible date, old bust	0000.999.41917 0000.999.41583	2640 (struck) 2641 (struck) 2642 (struck) 2643

	George II Irish Halfpence	
1737		3009 3010
1738		3015
1742	1894.24.2	3036 3040 (struck)
1743		3044 3045
1744		3053 3054 (struck)
1746		3058
1747	1931.58.830	
1749		3076
1751		3090
1752		3099 3100
1753	1944.57.23	
1760	1919.167.100 (struck)	3111 (struck) 3112 (struck) 3115 (struck) 3116 (struck) 3117 (struck) 3118 (struck) 3120 3123 3126
1776	1943.61.16 (struck)	
1782	1919.167.101 (struck)	

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. Bob Bowser
c/o Harry Salyards
606 N. Minnesota
Hastings, NE 68901

March 29, 1999

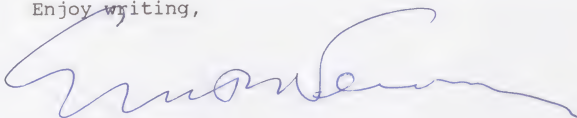
It was refreshing to read your continued comments on counterfeit halfpence in the Pennywise of March 15, 1999 (p. 101). There is so much more to be done so keep researching. I wish someone would classify the varieties of counterfeit halfpence but that is an enormous and difficult undertaking.

Walter Breen's definition of Bungtown was taken from my 1976 article and he really enjoyed talking about it. Bungtown has been used in so many ways by numismatists and others that its original meaning has been blurred. Its original 1787 usage should not be forgotten.

Incidentally you leave the impression that I indicated that Bungtown referred to Birmingham, England. Others have so speculated, but I know of no evidence.

I had published a detailed article on Shakespeare's use of Bung and Bunghole which will give you early origins if that interests you.

Enjoy writing,



Eric P. Newman

4/8/99

Dear Eric,

I took the liberty of making a xerox of your response to Bob Bowser, for publication in the May Penny-wise, and then forwarded the original on to Bob.

I thought your comment on the lack of evidence that Birmingham = "Birmingham" was particularly important, and deserving of being seen by the membership at large.

Obviously, if there's ever anything that you wish forwarded to another member in confidence, simply make a notation on the envelope. I've forwarded such responses unopened in the past, and would do so again in the future.

Cordially,

Barry Salzberg



Interior view of the crypt, showing the series of columns and the vaulted ceiling.

Château de Chillon. Prison de Bonivard en 1235

Chillon Castle. Bonivard's prison (1235)

Schloss Chillon. Gefängnis von Bonivard (1235)

ST. LOUIS, MO

P&EC

04/28/99

#110011

20 USA
August 20, 1999



4/26/99

Dear Eric,
Thanks for the
following note on
"Burgundy." Will
publish in the
May issue of
Penny-wise.
Cordially,
Hans.

VERLAG BERINGER & PAMPALUCHI, 8027 ZÜRICH

Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, MO
63105





June 14, 1999

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Thanks so much for your response on the "Bungtown Controversy" and the "Pennywise" notes. It's gratifying to know that someone reads these things. I agree fully that it would be desirable to do a more complete characterization of contemporary counterfeit dies, and realize full well that this would be an enormous task. Especially considering the condition of some of these things: how would you know when your close to being done?

I have had some recent discussions with Byron Weston about the crude engraved versions and their origin, as he's publishing soon in the "Colonial Newsletter" shortly, some of his understandings. This might be an area where the bite could first be taken out of this elephant and something published about the engraved varieties.

I recently purchased from a well known California dealer some Evasion pieces that all had "Bungtown" on the holders and thereby confirms the confusion with the use of the term. It is as yet unclear for me what type of pieces we can say came from the "Bungtowns" of Massachusetts or New Jersey or what the origin of all the types of crude unlisted imitations that were plated in the Taylor sale from the Baker Reference Collection and in Adkin's reference without Wood or Peck attribution. I have a few similar pieces and wouldn't mind studying these further as the possibility of completion is greater.

Again, thanks for the encouragement and the conversation.

Best Regards; Bob Bowser

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Bowser".

To: Bob Bowser

July 5, 1999

From: Eric P. Newman

Thanks for yours of June 14, 1999.

My opinion is that Bungtown referred to any counterfeit English or Irish halfpence wherever made but did not include evasions as their circulation in America never occurred. "Wherever made" means England, Ireland, or anywhere in the U.S. or Canada until the American glut of 1789-90. State coinage would not be included. Neither would genuine English coinage.

Please give me all articles, pamphlets and citations to the Taylor sale and the Baker Reference Collection. It will save me some time and you probably have it at your finger tips.

Thanks.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Byron K. Weston
c/o Colonial Newsletter
P.O. Box 661
Hampden, ME 04444

September 7, 1999

Dear Byron:

Although a letter addressed to you in Milesberg, PA might reach you more quickly. I want to be sure that my "prophetic" comments continue to keep you at full speed.

Your article entitled "Evasion Hybrids - the Missing Link" has been read and reread by me. You are far ahead on the first leg of the relay race but there are three more legs to be run. Pass the baton to yourself and keep it up.

I congratulate you on your fine study and thank you for using the work some of us did in the past as stimulation for what you are now doing.

My large collection of counterfeit British halfpence still awaits thorough examination. Ringo has seen it. Smith has seen some of it. Perhaps you will in due course be able to classify the varieties together with examples from other collections to produce a master work.

Stay excited and thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Eric P. Newman', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Eric P. Newman

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

September 22, 1999

Dear Eric,

I've just received your letter of September 7, which was forwarded to me.

I must say that I am quite thrilled that you liked my article, "Evasion Hybrids: The Missing Link." It is very gratifying for this to have come from **the pioneer** of counterfeit research. You should know that your writings were the inspiration that led me on this path.

I've tried my best to look at counterfeit halfpence from a strict scientific perspective. Of course you must also interject a little theory now and again to try to make some sense of the facts. Phil Mossman has suggested that I develop a design style classification for counterfeit halfpence. I may consider this for the longer term, after I have examined more specimens or photographs - there always seems to be something new or not yet discovered. I have promised a few smaller article for CNL and Gary Trudgen is currently photographing specimens that I believe are related by design style.

Since this area of study is so diverse, within itself, a "master work" may be many years away. I am certain that my collection is not as diverse as yours or Mike Ringo's. I believe that such a work would have to be a collaborative effort - it is just too much for one person to tackle alone. I know that Mike is far ahead of me in this respect and has accumulated a large photo library of counterfeits. Mike has also promised a follow up to my article, and I would hope that you may encourage him to follow through. Perhaps the baton should be passed to Mike for the next leg of this relay?

Skip Smith is also a clear thinker and is very objective. I thought his statistical analyses were great. I hope that I may also hear from him on his thoughts about my article. I would also hope to someday pass the baton to Vicken Yegparian, who is quite knowledgeable of counterfeits, Evasions and Conders. He kept me on my toes throughout my own studies. Vicken is currently working on a bibliography of counterfeit halfpence research. Gary Trudgen has been a constant for me with his encouragement of my efforts. Without Gary none of this would have come together.

As you can see, interest in counterfeits is growing, due in no small part to your past efforts. I will endeavor to maintain my sense of objectivity just as you have so thoughtfully expressed in your letter. I sincerely appreciate the vote of support that you have given me. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Byron K. Weston
P.O. Box 933
Milesburg, PA 16853

Dear Eric,

Hoping that this letter finds you as spunky and in good health as you were in our class last A Summer Conference.

I want to thank you again for adding such spice to that Colonial class, and I still remember it as the best class that I have taken during Summer conference at ANA Headquarters in Colo. Springs.

I wanted to ask you a question. Recently I have delved into the Mills coppers as a sort of collection. I am still writing articles that appear in Coin World and selling coins for a living, but have so a small collection of Machin's for you.

You may remember that I put that V47-A from Tom Rinaldo with

in our class last summer. That was
a nice example of a tough variety.

Recently, I purchased from David
Warrick of ^{CONN.} ~~Mass.~~ (you may know him)
a V14-84A (Rare) ^{contemporary} counterfeit. you
know the variety. This coin that I
have is clipped and you may know
of its existence also. Funny thing
is the weight of the large part
of the coin (which I have) - it is
about 130 grains - well more than
any other existing piece of V14-84A.

This leads me to wonder
(as I am sure many other early
copper people do) is the coin a
product of England?, OR do you
think it is of Machin's Mills
manufacture? (Next question)

• I also purchased a 17-17 connection
the pheons variety. Thought I
would do some research as to
what the arrows (pheons) at the
date mean? ~~Don~~ Do you think
that ~~this~~ is a connection to
why arrows were placed at the
date on ^{US} Mint issues of dimes,
quarters & halves of 1853, 1873 &
1874? Let me hear from
you when you get a minute to
write.



Thanks &
Ford Regards -
Ron Fener

'99 Summer
conference student
of yours -

Ron Fener
3941-9 CORNELIUS
Charlotte, NC
28211

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Ron Fener
3941-9 Cornerwood Lane
Charlotte, NC 28211

March 13, 2000

Dear Ron:

Your kind remarks about the ANA Colonial class last summer are appreciated. I plan to do it again this summer.

You have asked for my opinion as to the source of the V14-84A. I urged Vlack to include it because I felt it was American. There was no evidence of the production of counterfeit halfpence in England during the 1784 period. The authorization of Connecticut coinage in 1785 refers in the preamble to fellow countrymen previously making counterfeit halfpence. You can read it in Crosby. This is long before Machin's Mills was even organized. The style and structure of the few 1784 pieces is totally different from Machin's or English pieces. It was obviously made by a very inexperienced diemaker.

Therefore I feel its weight has no relationship to Machin's nor English halfpence nor does its planchet diameter or thickness. I think you should try to solve the mystery of whether it was a Connecticut diemaker or other New England diemaker and who he might be.

I hope I have been helpful.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

P.S. I presume you have read my article on the 1785 and 1781 halfpence.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

To: Jack H. Fisher
3125 Bronson Blvd.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

May 9, 2000

From: Eric P. Newman

The detail in your Bank Note Reporter articles is phenomenal. In your piece on Benton Harbor you used the name of my favorite research topic, Bungtown. Please be kind enough to give me copies of all your sources.

You may be familiar with my study entitled "English and Bungtown Halfpence" in Studies on Money in Early America (NY 1976) (ANS publication), particularly pp. 157-169. If not it will give you a few chuckles out of the history of Bungtown.

Eric

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

To: Jack H. Fisher

May 19, 2000

From: Eric P. Newman

The reason Benton Harbor didn't like being called Bungtown was because at the time it meant asshole town and was a common vulgarism. The making of bungs for barrels was routine anywhere barrels were manufactured.

Subj: Re: [ColNewsLetFndn] preliminary draft Date: 08/29/2001 10:48:04 AM Central Daylight Time From: JCSpilman@EarthLink.net (James Spilman) Reply-to: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com To: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com
--

Hi everyone - -

While Byron is getting his act together for a new educational career - this would be a good time for those of you who have been watching the development of the Counterfeit British Halfpence study to add some additional personal observations or comments, or questions,

So far as I know - this is the first time that anyone has attempted an in-depth comparative study of all of the "counterfeit" specimens that we have all been encountering for years. And certainly for the first time in an ongoing public forum such as this. These include the more or less mundane "Machins" to British Counterfeits imported into America plus, - Byron is also including, to my surprise - the "evasion" coppers, some of which may actually be related to some of the others simply because they may have been manufactured by the same people.

I am aware that Byron has accumulated an extensive quantity of very good quality digital photographs from several major collections whose owners are cooperating with him. Comparing all of these images one with another is a daunting task but it appears that it may be possible to separate major groupings - such as the "Simians" - from the others and begin to make progress in identifying common characteristics that may suggest common origins for many of these pieces.

So - while Byron prepares for his new academic activity - lets hear from some of the rest of you!
Comments? Questions? Suggestions? Whatever!

As an aside - our filing space in this eGroup is almost full. When it does fill up we will switch over to another eGroup - probably named CNLF-1, and the entire membership will be transferred enmass to the new designation. Apparently the Yahoo eGroups do not plan to sell additional file space in a group so it is necessary to open another eGroup to carry the overflow. The older ColNewsLetFndn eGroup will continue to be accessible to members when this time arrives.

Thanks.

JCSpilman/CNLF

=====

Byron Weston wrote:

Hi All,I've been working on my narrative on Sub-Evasions but would like to spruce it up a bit, perhaps rearrange a few things and add a few others. As you may remember - I think I'd mentioned it before - my life is about to take a different path, with classes starting on Thursday - my time management has not been at its best lately!! I think its important that we put the Simian discussion aside until I can get this narrative done and posted, which may not be for a while yet. I hope that nobody is disappointed and that you can understand my reasoning.Byron

Subj: **Re: [ColNewsLetFndn] counterfeit cataloging**
 Date: 09/27/2001 9:25:36 PM Central Daylight Time
 From: freidus@wwnet.net (Dan Freidus)
 Reply-to: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com
 To: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com

I've followed all of these discussions with some interest but little, if any input. I've never put a serious effort into cataloging counterfeit halfpennies. Is there a starting point that people have found helpful? If I had a sense of what the outcome might be I might even be persuaded to try it by creating a database and seeing how things sort out. But I'm not even sure what characters to use: date, cast vs. struck, matched letter punches or unique punches or handcut letters, quality of bust, quality of Britannia, specific die breaks, die rust, weight, and so it goes. And some of these are data I couldn't always supply. Many of the counterfeits I see are of indeterminate date while on others I cannot determine with confidence whether they are cast or struck. I know that some people here have looked at many more counterfeit halfpennies for many more years than I have. Can some of you give us an overview.

Thanks,
Dan

P.S. Despite all that I don't know about this stuff, I just wrote my October Coin World column on counterfeits (and in checking back to see when I did last I see that I wrote about them in October of 2000. Maybe October is counterfeit halfpence month!). Inspired by a recent rereading of Skip Smith and Phil Mossman's paper from the 1998 COAC and looking at 2 groups of halfpennies I was working with. I illustrated the column with photos of the edges of those 2 groups in stacks. You've seen it but most CW readers haven't: the neat square edges and uniform thickness of pieces you decide are genuine by other characteristics vs. the incredible variability in a group of counterfeits. A few of the counterfeits were under 70 grains and I think there were one or two under 50.

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Friday, September 28, 2001 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **[ColNewsLetFndn] Re: counterfeit cataloging**
 Date: 09/28/2001 7:08:03 PM Central Daylight Time
 From: bkweston@netzero.net (Byron K. Weston)
 Reply-to: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com
 To: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com

--- In ColNewsLetFndn@y..., Dan Freidus <freidus@w...> wrote:
 > I've followed all of these discussions with some interest but little,
 > if any input. I've never put a serious effort into cataloging
 > counterfeit halfpennies. Is there a starting point that people have
 > found helpful?

Hi Dan, and All...

This is what I was trying to do with CNL-111, Dan, start the first layer of blocks on the foundation already poured by others (Newman, Anton, Smith, etc.) This is something that I could ramble on endlessly about but let me just point you to CNL sequential page 1983 and the graphic outline. Giving credit where it is due, this was Gary Trudgen's idea to do the graphics, with which I wholeheartedly agreed. This gives a basis of where to begin with a classification for counterfeit halfpence and the terminology is explained further in the glossary that follows. Of course each set or subset might be broken down even further, or perhaps not at all. Some of these classifications might be applied to Atlee counterfeits as well as British, so there is still work that can be done with this basic outline.

As you have noted the more counterfeit halfpence that you are exposed to the more things you are going to begin to notice about them. Having read and studied the works of many others I decided to fall back on the oldest and most reliable scientific methodology ever known - the eyeball comparison. Although I also like to dabble in theory, as I saw more and more counterfeits I began to notice that some resembled others, and that some resembled British Evasions! Of course this naturally led me to Families, which is one of the things we are trying to do here, in this group - share information between like minded people with a common interest. Off hand, I managed to to separate 6 or 7 Families of counterfeit halfpence, and have been able to put together a couple of other Families with information provided by members of this group, so our mutual goal of a greater understanding is slowly but surely coming together. Of course this will take time, and there is always ideas to be tested and theories to be tried along the way.

As far as classification goes, I've looked at this from several different perspectives. One, of course, is design style. Although some researchers might consider this least reliable, I have found it to be astonishingly productive in linking many counterfeits together. Of course, I do not rely on design style alone but a combination of it and other diagnostics including die and punch linkage. Then, of course, we get into the old argument of dies and punches crossing the Atlantic, for which I can find absolutely no basis in fact or theory to support such a notion - but, hey, that's just me! Someone recently ask if I was still using the term Sub-Evasion, which is nothing more than a category into which I put several varieties of counterfeit halfpence. Of course, just because two different pieces fit into this particular category doesn't mean that they are related.

Friday, September 28, 2001 America Online: EricNumis

So there are now classifications by Families, and categories of characteristics...I hope you are following this, Dan(?). Its not a good idea to confuse the two.

Another fly in the ointment is that there will always be varieties that cannot be classified or categorized, in other words, they stand alone. This is where the anonymous category comes into play. Now remember we are talking about a category and not a classification, of any sort, so, unrelated pieces can always fit into one category, or perhaps even two or more! This particular category has no indication of provenance even though some people seem to think that I believe otherwise. The best example that I can think of is V.14-84A.

This brings us to methodology of the various research methods that have been used, past, present and future. I've even classified and categorized these in one way or another. One is archival, or historical documentation. From my perspective, a researcher who relies heavily on this methodology without backing it with more scientific methods is bound to eventually be proven wrong. Historical documentation can be misleading - I tried pointing this out in CNL-111. More recently, Brian J.Danforth did the same with the historical documentation on Hibernia issues. Just because it was written contemporaneously doesn't make it so. You must also consider the source and the circumstances!

Another methodology is statistical. This can be both a blessing and a scourge. You have to be careful about interpreting statistics because they can be easily scewed to produce the result desired by the researcher. This I also pointed out in CNL-111, giving my interpretation of some of the statistics presented by Charles Smith in COAC. What appears on the surface may not tell the true story that may lie several layers underneath!

The other methodology is theory. This is what I call the FUN methodology, as I love to dabble in theory! Of course some researchers take it a bit more serious than do I and can become quite upset when someone counters their theory. This doesn't bother me, in fact I welcome others to prove any theory that I present to be wrong. That is why it is theory and NOT fact!

This last category or classification of methodology is what I would like to see more of in this groups discussions. Don't just ask a question, go out on a limb and present a theory! Lets have some FUN! Anyway, Dan, I've rambled enough, and hope that I've given you some ideas of your own on how to classify and/or categorize counterfeit halfpence, with a little background on methodology thrown in for free! I hope this overview was not too broad?

Byron

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Subj: **[ColNewsLetFndn] Re: counterfeit cataloging**
 Date: 09/28/2001 8:02:33 PM Central Daylight Time
 From: freidus@wwnet.net (Dan Freidus)
 Reply-to: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com
 To: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com

Part of the problem in cataloging these is that they're made by so many mints and engravers that the patterns may not be as meaningful or easy to discern. BUT then again they might. I'll have to take another read of CNL-111.

Dan

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 X-Sender: freidus@wwnet.net
 X-Apparently-To: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com
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 Received: (qmail 58118 invoked from network); 29 Sep 2001 01:01:03 -0000
 Received: from unknown (10.1.10.26)
 by 10.1.1.222 with QMQP; 29 Sep 2001 01:01:03 -0000
 Received: from unknown (HELO ziggy.wwnet.net) (209.142.193.4)
 by mta1 with SMTP; 29 Sep 2001 01:01:03 -0000
 Received: (qmail 29025 invoked from network); 29 Sep 2001 01:17:14 -0000
 Received: from unknown (HELO ?64.27.216.205?) (64.27.216.205)
 by ziggy.wwnet.net with SMTP; 29 Sep 2001 01:17:14 -0000
 X-Sender: freidus@mail.wwnet.net
 Message-Id: <f04310101b7dacd885ee2@[64.27.216.205]>
 In-Reply-To: <9p33a4+djqc@eGroups.com>
 References: <9p33a4+djqc@eGroups.com>
 To: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com
 From: Dan Freidus <freidus@wwnet.net>
 MIME-Version: 1.0

Friday, September 28, 2001 America Online: EricNumis

Subj:	Classifying counterfeit British half pence
Date:	09/28/2001 9:17:56 PM Central Daylight Time
From:	EricNumis
To:	FREIDUS@wwnet.net

Dan : I have read your 9/27/01 Email comment in which you ask for methods of classification of counterfeit British halfpence. I have also read the Weston response and your reply. I am writing this to you only but have no objection to your disclosure of any part of it. I am only interested in the project being accomplished in a sound manner and do not have time to do much more than make suggestions from time to time.

This a very difficult project because there are so many pieces which have unreadable dates, letters and other parts due to weakness in die preparation or in striking or casting as well as wear. Assuming that there will be cooperation from researchers and collections the characteristics and measurements will have to be uniformly prepared. That virtually means beginning all over again. Batty produced a masterpiece for himself which is of little classification value today. The elements to be observed and measured must be pointed out and reviewed carefully. I think the project might be limited to counterfeit George II and George III British and Irish halfpence and farthings. As to the British style the American minted pieces are rather well known and described already but should be blended into the study. Evasion pieces were never really in circulation in America and are a separate category although evasion listings may take in some of the pieces in the group to be studied such as those dated 1776 etc. What I believe should be studied is the distance between the three stops on the obverse which should be taken from the center point of the stops and this produces three separate measurements. I used this in classifying varieties of Virginia halfpence and it is very frustrating. The twig on the Britannia reverse may have some measurable elements or the leaf count or the lettering a leaf points to. Perhaps the length of the staff parts or what part of the date the staff points to. Is the size of the shield measurable or its angular position. The weight and die position of front and back are not worth much because all of the same variety will be different. Relative die position is of no help as to castings made from either genuine or counterfeit pieces and those struck from dies often have substantial differences. Charles Smith and Phil Mossman worked on this matter extensively and must have many suggestions for you. The work I like most is the discovery of 18th and 19th century comments on them and laws relating to them. I hope I have been slightly helpful. Please feel free to ask me anything you think will be helpful to the cause. I have a rather large collection of them as you may know but that has little to do with my research enthusiasm which began over 50 years ago. Keep up your wonderful writing. Thrive. Eric

Subj: **RE: [ColNewsLetFndn] Re: Irish '83's**
 Date: 09/30/2001 4:41:48 PM Central Daylight Time
 From: freidus@wnet.net (Dan Freidus)
 Reply-to: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com
 To: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com

Since this is a fairly public forum, I should mention that I happened to have the Irish coppers accessible to scan because I'm looking through some counterfeit and regal halfpence for some research. It turns out I don't have enough Irish for the project so it will involve English halfpennies. As we see a range of color, I'm curious how much of that is patina and how much is differences in metal composition. So as my pilot project at the university's nuclear reactor, I plan on compring regal and counterfeit halfpennies. I theorize that there is more variability in the elemental composition of the counterfeits. If I can work with enough smaples I'd like to also include cast and struck counterfeits, again theorizing that the cast pieces have more adulteration (I'm not sure if you should call it debasement for a copper coin). I see more brassy looking cast than struck pieces so I figure they threw in some tin or zinc or brass or bronze scrap along with the copper. When I had someone do some of this analysis for me on Higley's they used a different method that isn't as sensitive, but sacrifices less of the coin. Getting a 10 microgram scraping off the edge of a Higley is destructive enough. This method will probably entail drilling into the edge of a coin with a drill about 1/3 mm in diameter (10 to 15 thousandths of an inch).

That's the long of it. The short is that, like most of us, I don't keep a pile of coins around at home. That's what safe deposit boxes are for...

Dan

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 Return-Path: <sentto-3163064-368-1001886018-EricNumis=AOL.COM@returns.onelist.com>
 Received: from rly-yc03.mx.aol.com (rly-yc03.mail.aol.com [172.18.149.35]) by air-yc02.mail.aol.com (v80.17) with ESMTP id MAILINYC23-0930174148; Sun, 30 Sep 2001 17:41:48 -0400
 Received: from n6.groups.yahoo.com (n6.groups.yahoo.com [216.115.96.56]) by rly-yc03.mx.aol.com

Monday, October 01, 2001 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: [ColNewsLetFndn] William III cftfs
 Date: 02/23/2002 1:31:02 PM Central Standard Time
 From: nraywms@optonline.net (Ray Williams)
 Reply-to: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com
 To: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com

Hey Byron!

I don't believe that what was found in Philly was a fluke. Just slightly north of there, I found a number of William III 1/2 pennies in a field - between the three of us, there were probably about 15 or 20 found. I also found a James coin - don't know what it is - maybe a farthing - the color is MUCH different than the halfpence. There are MANY of the William coins found in the Langhorne area of PA (20 mile radius). If you remind me, I'll dig them out and bring them to PAN. I've never found old copper in the ground that wasn't severely corroded.

Ray

----- Original Message -----

From: "bkweston" <BKWeston@LazerLink.com>
 To: <ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com>
 Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2002 1:37 PM
 Subject: [ColNewsLetFndn] Re: Morris 1775 Brown and Gray

> --- In ColNewsLetFndn@y..., "rlbcomuser" <RLB9com@a...> wrote:

> > ---All;

> > Does anyone have anything else to share of interest on

> > this field of William III issues? I'd like to learn more.

> >

> > Bob

>

> I know that the market in England for Geo. II and Geo. III counterfeits

> is tightening up just as it is here in America. There are several

> serious collectors over there for these two series, but American

> collectors still vastly outnumber those in England. Earlier issues,

> such as William III issues, can still be found on English dealers

> lists, most of them being struck rather than cast, amazingly enough,

> although many casts pop up as well.

> I think that the later Geo. II and Geo. III issues, just because of the

> variety of varieties(!), is studied and collected much more. That is

> as true in England as it is here. I think that the Phila. Highway

> Hoard was likely an aberration as around that time it was still

> pretty much an barter or 'on account' economy with wampum and tobacco

> trade the same as cash. The only real money was likely Spanish

> American silver. The demand for copper was less simply because there

> was enough of a supply until the coinage of Geo. II. Then, of course,

> the counterfeiters went into operation in earnest producing a more

> diverse variety of counterfeits.

> Of course, these are my own thoughts, and only a theory at best,

> which is as always subject to change.

> Byron

>

>

>

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> ColNewsLetFndn-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Saturday, February 23, 2002 America Online: EricNumis

Subj:	[ColNewsLetFndn] Casting Review
Date:	03/31/2002 7:12:32 PM Central Standard Time
From:	rg5tunc@aol.com
Reply-to:	ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com
To:	colnewsletfndn@yahoogroups.com
File:	Serialcasting.ZIP (86866 bytes) DL Time (115200 bps): < 1 minute

Hi All,

The jpeg's are from the Notre Dame site by Lou Jordan and demonstrate series and parallel casting. Also please note the terminology as I will be using these to identify items on future coins, ie: cope (top mold), drag (bottom mold).

1) Many casts can be identified by a cud like appearance at the entry port and exit/gas port. File marks or hammering give support to this.

2) Most of the British cast had a preference for series casting where the ports are 180 deg out. On the Pre-Federal casts there seemed to be a preference for parallel casting where as the ports could be 90 deg out approaching 180 deg. This information was found from the study group of Skip Smith and Phil Mossman.

3) Often you will see a dramatic difference from one side of the coin to the other depending on which side faced the cope mold or the drag mold. coins that faced the cope mold had a tendency to demonstrate the gas bubbles, loss of definition from the letters being filled, and pitting or actual overflow of the molten metal on the surface of the coin. On the drag side of the mold the coin would be filled first giving that side better definition and smoother surfaces.

4) Look for letters such as the top part of A's, B's and R's to be filled.

5) Obviously a Specific Gravity test helps a great deal but we can't provide that from the pic.

Many of the references I will make will be from the works of Charles (Skip) Smith and Phil Mossman and whom I owe much for the sharing of knowledge that both these gentlemen passed on to me. In the future if I am making a comment that is strictly my opinion I will advise all accordingly otherwise most of the factual comments will be from the works of Phil Mossman and Skip Smith.

Ray T.

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Subj: **[ColNewsLetFndn] Re: V14-84A**
 Date: 04/01/2002 7:39:04 AM Central Standard Time
 From: 1-mar@mindspring.com (remi66111)
 Reply-to: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com
 To: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com

Ray,
 Nice overview of the casting process. I couldn't get the zip thing to work at home but opened it at work. Neat diagrams.
 I've always considered the 14-84A's to be struck and I've never heard anyone suggest that they may be cast. Are you thinking that just this particular piece was cast off a struck example, or all of them? I would be interested in hearing your thoughts on the subject. If I recall, several of these pieces do have edge damage and or clips.
 Marc

In ColNewsLetFndn@y..., rg5turb@a... wrote:
 > It would help if I had attached the jpeg in the first post!
 >
 > Ray T.

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 X-Sender: 1-mar@mindspring.com
 X-Apparently-To: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com

Monday, April 01, 2002 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: [ColNewsLetFndn] Re: Side Trip**
 Date: 06/19/2002 11:06:08 AM Central Daylight Time
 From: PLMossman@aol.com
 Reply-to: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com
 To: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com

In a message dated 6/19/2002 1:41:06 AM Eastern Daylight Time, rg5turs@aol.com writes:

As an estimate I would say about 30 to 40 percent of the cast coins can be identified by eye from telltale signs and the remaining identification of cast coinage must be found from other sources, ie: specific gravity and possibly XRF analysis.

Hi Ray,

Remember that the William III coppers were STRUCK coins on CAST planchets and won't look like the usual cast counterfeits.

Phil

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 Received: from n21.grp.scd.yahoo.com (n21.grp.scd.yahoo.com [66.218.66.77]) by rly-yb04.mx.aol.com (v86_r1.13) with ESMTP id MAILRELAYINYB48-0619120541; Wed, 19 Jun 2002 12:05:41 -0400
 X-eGroups-Return: sentto-3163064-3005-1024502653-EricNumis=AOL.COM@returns.groups.yahoo.com
 Received: from [66.218.66.98] by n21.grp.scd.yahoo.com with NNMP; 19 Jun 2002 16:04:13 -0000
 X-Sender: PLMossman@aol.com
 X-Apparently-To: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com
 Received: (EGP: mail-8_0_3_2); 19 Jun 2002 16:04:12 -0000
 Received: (qmail 1574 invoked from network); 19 Jun 2002 16:04:12 -0000
 Received: from unknown (66.218.66.218)
 by m15.grp.scd.yahoo.com with QMQP; 19 Jun 2002 16:04:12 -0000
 Received: from unknown (HELO imo-r01.mx.aol.com) (152.163.225.97)
 by mta3.grp.scd.yahoo.com with SMTP; 19 Jun 2002 16:04:12 -0000
 Received: from PLMossman@aol.com
 by imo-r01.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v32.21.) id r.120.11eeca01 (17228)
 for <ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com>; Wed, 19 Jun 2002 12:04:04 -0400 (EDT)
 Message-ID: <120.11eeca01.2a420574@aol.com>
 To: ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com
 X-Mailer: AOL 6.0 for Windows US sub 10572
 From: PLMossman@aol.com
 X-Yahoo-Profile: pmandr04401
 MIME-Version: 1.0
 Mailing-List: list ColNewsLetFndn@yahoogroups.com; contact ColNewsLetFndn-owner@yahoogroups.com

Wednesday, June 19, 2002 America Online: EricNumis

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

John Lorenzo
54 Aqueduct Ave
Midland Park, NJ 07432-1506

August 13, 2002

Dear John:

After reading your letter of July 22, 2002 after I returned from my vacation I went to the bank to visit my Vlack 20-87C Machins. It is a beautiful red brown uncirculated piece with a small planchet crack. The date is almost all on the planchet except for the lower stem of the last 7 and a tiny part of the lower loop of the 8. I compared both dies to the pictures you sent. No dentils show on my piece at the lowest point of the reverse.

Your piece has a slightly different form of the top of the 8 as you pointed out. Everything else seems identical to my coin. Why your piece looks the way it does I do not know. The planchet before striking might have had an irregular lump in this small area. A tiny blob of copper metal could have gotten between the die and the planchet when the coin was struck. The die could have been dropped or damaged before its last usage. I see no evidence that the die was modified deliberately. Your piece is quite worn and has dings in it and this makes it more difficult to diagnose.

Thank you for submitting your problem and keep working on it. I also thank you for a reason to look at my piece which may be from the Stepney Hoard as I didn't care much about that factor in 1952 when I believe I got it through my request to Walter Breen as to what happened to the counterfeit halfpence in the Stepney Hoard. He wrote me that Stacks kept the halfpence in a drawer with other similar pieces and when Stacks located them for me I was the fortunate purchaser. That became the subject of my 1958 ANS centennial article on Machins Mills and Vermont coinage.

Thrive,



Eric P. Newman

Eric -

The coin is this
west to east line ($\leftrightarrow$)

Measures: 27.55MM.

North/South ($\updownarrow$): 27.41MM

weight: 6.5 grams

100.3 grains

New Discovery Specimen: Vlack 20-87C

John Lorenzo & William Anton

We are pleased to present a new discovery specimen in the Machin Mills series, which has been identified and confirmed by these writers in going through an old unsearched bag of English and Irish contemporary counterfeits. For the beginning student collecting imitation halfpence the Machins can be attributed by the identification of thick-pursed lips on the bust of GEORGE III on the obverse, the large triangular denticles on the edges and most importantly the solid lines in the shield on the reverse as this feature is also diagnostic of the Vermont State Coinage colonials. All contemporary counterfeits dated 1787 should be closely examined for any of these diagnostic traits.

The die emission sequence incorporating this new die variety utilizing the standard Vlack attribution system for this family of contemporary counterfeits for obverses V.20 and V.19 is then: V.20-87C-I, V.20-87C and then V.19-87C. The only logical position in this sequence based on this defective '8' punch. We will explore the reasons for this conclusion in this paper and how this counterfeiter produced this extraordinary example.

To properly view this die marriage and the interlinking with reverse V.87C the reader is recommended to go to the Notre Dame University web site to this specific web page:

www.nd.edu/~rarebook/coins/ColCoin/ColCoinImages/Machin?Vlack-2.bottom.jpg

This newly discovered specimen has no die break above the seated Britannia figure above the head on the reverse, as does the V.19-87C variety placing it before this variety and therefore in the beginning of the emission sequence for this particular reverse die family.

The **top half of the eight** in 1787 is clearly tilted to the left and because it is an earlier die state than V.19-87C, based on not having a die break above Britannia's head we are now calling this new reverse 87C-I and is being placed in the die emission sequence "before" the presently known V.20-87C die marriage.

The full updated die emission sequence therefore for the entire V.87C Britannia reverse family can now be listed as: V.20-87C-I, V.20-87C, V.19-87C, V.18-87C, V.19-87C (again), V.21-87C, V.23-87C and finally VT-87C.

Although this specimen has received its fair share of handling marks this specimen has absolutely no physical damage in the exurge area at six o'clock on the reverse in and around the '8' punch area under magnification and no damage is observed and confirmed at twelve o'clock on the corresponding obverse side above the Georgian portrait. Computer enhancement imagery was also used in this area of question to further confirm our conclusion of a "no damage scenario."

Since no damage was observed in and around the '8' punch area we were then forced to explain how this specimen came into being a new variety. The numeral '8' punch was an obvious defective punch when the die engraver struck it into the working die. After he struck the numeral '8' punch into the striking reverse die which is now an incused '8' impression, the die engraver noticed there was a crack on the right side of the '8' that he

New Discovery Specimen: Vlack 20-87C

John Lorenzo & William Anton

just punched into the die. Not only did he see the crack on the right side of the '8', he saw the top of the '8' was also leaning to the left. To correct this so-called error or defective numeral punch he strengthened the numeral '8' punch by cutting away some of the solid metal from the base of the '8' on the numeral punch.

By doing this form of work here we have the number '8' in the date as we see it on the current Rarity 7 V.20-87C variety and the other die marriages as we know today which are linked to this Britannia V.87C reverse.

The defective numeral '8' punch was cracking or defective on the right side in the middle area of this numeral punch and under a jeweler's loop or 15-power magnification the crack and the associated defective area is quite clear.

When reviewing Gary Trudgen's photo on the V.19-87C specimen that he utilized on his arguments that the coin was simply damaged, the defective '8' punch was clearly reworked or reengraved and strengthened even on this later emission variety. The area under question on this specimen still shows an indent or notch on the right side and based on our review this does not show on any other existing V.19-87C specimens but only on this particular V.19-87C specimen that Trudgen supplied for his side of the argument. It is therefore concluded that some V.19-87C specimens were probably struck "concurrent" with some V.20-87C examples!

As the engraver corrected the defective numeral punch and subsequent strikings of V.19-87C were produced we have a perfect '8' that do not show this defective notch area. We always see a perfect '8' with the V.20-87C variety and again this confirms the concurrent emissions of both V.20-87C and V.19-87C. The overlay images also displayed by Trudgen again show the defective cracking '8' punch and the corrected or rework numeral '8' and indent or notch defective area. We are therefore calling this new discovery V.20-87C-I.

To view this image of the notched V.19-87C variety, please go on the Internet to the Yahoo Chat Room on colonial coins, specifically to Message 6729. The exact website address for this v.19-87C notched specimen photo is:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/colonial-coins.messages/6729>

This new discovery coin is therefore the first in the V.87C Britannia reverse die emission sequence and is the first reported situation that we are aware of that a new variety was created due to a defective numeral or for that matter a defective letter punch!

The first detailed examination of this family of coteremporary counterfeits was reported by the pioneering colonial expert Robert Vlack who did not include a descriptive text but

New Discovery Specimen: Vlack 20-87CI
John Lorenzo & William Anton

created two photographic plates titled: Early English Copper Halfpence Struck in America.

This discovery now includes a new reverse die variety in this family of U.S. Colonial Coins. This is based on obverse/reverse die sharing information, which is linked to Vermont and Connecticut State Coinage dies and are therefore contemporary counterfeits struck on American soil in and around the time period appearing on these coins.

At some future date this example will be made available to the students and researchers for physical study and examination.





Subj: **Re: device trial piece**
 Date: 4/28/2003 5:32:53 PM Central Standard Time
 From: gaspar@wuchem.wustl.edu
 To: bkweston@lazerlink.com
 Sent from the Internet ([Details](#))

Dear Byron,

I am at long last ready to send your trial piece back. While I can't assign its function with certainty, I do have some ideas about it. You and your colleagues made the key observations already: 1. Both the obverse bust of George III and the reverse Britannia device are recessed below the surface of the planchet on which they are struck. 2. There is an incuse outline around both the obverse bust and reverse Britannia.

The tools that were used to strike this piece could have been purposely made in the form in which they were used, in which case their purpose would most likely have been to produce bust and Britannia _punches_. To do so they would have been struck individually into a soft steel or iron block or the end of a cylinder, the metal surrounding the bust and Britannia cut away, and the soft tool hardened. Jim Spilman knows that Graham Dyer, the late Robert Stevenson and I have identified master tools of the kind I have just described that were made and used in the Edinburgh mint in the 1670's. They were called "counterpunches" and were in effect punches used to make punches, serving the same role as matrices or master dies.

On the other hand the tools that struck your piece could have been dies that were cut down by filing away the areas around the bust and Britannia that carry the inscription on complete dies. Why would anyone have done that? If new dies were needed and no central obverse or reverse device punches, nor master tools for making new punches were available, then this would have been a way to press a die into service as a master tool for reproducing punches. Your piece itself could have been used to demonstrate the quality of the punches that could be produced in this manner, and thus have been used to help sell punches to would-be producers of dies for evasion or other coins.

Another possibility, suggested by the observation that the fabric and weight of the planchet on which this piece was struck closely resemble that of an evasion halfpenny, the piece could have been an advertisement for dies to make counterfeit or evasion halfpennies. An engraver interested in selling dies might have wanted to show off the quality of his work and did so by making a false die, cutting it down and striking this piece to show, without an inscription what the finished "coins" would look like. Of course simply making an uninscribed die and striking trial pieces would have produced a product more similar to a finished "coin" in that the bust and Britannia would have been in relief rather than being incuse images. But if the producer of this piece wanted to sell dies, rather than punches, a piece of this form has the advantage to a seller of dies suspicious of his customers that a cast from this piece could _not_ easily be converted into a die because the area outside the outline surrounding the devices would be too low.

Let me add that the fabric of the piece looks like 18th century work, so it is unlikely to be of more recent vintage. Also, the quality of the engraving is quite high, suggesting that the device on the shield carried by Britannia was made deliberately crude.

So in summary, it is difficult to decide whether the tools used to strike your piece were originally made to manufacture punches, or were instead cut-down dies used to make punches or to advertise the workmanship of a supplier of punches or dies to counterfeiter clients. A final possibility is that a ruined die was cut down and employed to strike this piece just for fun. I find most interesting the possibility that the

tools used to strike this piece were indeed used to produce punches.

I'll be interested in hearing what ideas your group has discussed. Let me thank Eric Newman for helping to formulate these suggestions. The foolishness is my doing, and he deserves most of the credit for the rest.

Peter Gaspar

Subj: **Re: 1781**
Date: 05/01/2005 4:53:35 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: rogermoore435@yahoo.com

Dear Roger:

As to the 1781 counterfeit halfpence project I will be glad to help.

If you want me to be an author I hope I can add something. There is some newly located Irish 1784 legislation which may affect the 1785 pieces and I may suggest adding that.

As to attachments to the Email you last sent I think you should mail them to me as I cannot bring them up.

As to the Virginia forgery and reproduction matter I feel it is not a matter of enthusiasm to me as I previously pointed out to you. There are no counterfeits I know of.

I look forward to the publication of the Maris matters.

Keep up the enthusiasm for numismatics.

My best. Eric

Sunday, May 01, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Sincerely

Eric P. Newman

Subj: **Re: 1781**
Date: 05/01/2005 5:47:13 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric, I will be in Washinton DC for the next week but if I can get a copy together for you tonight I will send it off or I will do so when I get back. I think you will be a big help on the text of the paper which is rather thin at present. I am happy with the photo plates but could use some better images - especially for the obverses 41 and 42 and the reverse 81B. I just acquired a nice 43-81D so I think we will be okay with these images. The new 46-81F will have better images also. Thank you for agreeing to look at it. Roger

EricNumis@aol.com wrote:

Dear Roger:

As to the 1781 counterfeit halfpence project I will be glad to help.

If you want me to be an author I hope I can add something. There is some newly located Irish 1784 legislation which may affect the 1785 pieces and I may suggest adding that.

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I look forward to the publication of the Maris matters.

Keep up the enthusiasm for numismatics.

My best. Eric

Monday, May 02, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Monday, May 02, 2005 America Online: EricNumis